

Abstract of the Disclosure

A comparator unit comprising a first amplifier stage and a second amplifier stage. The first amplifier stage includes a differential amplifier having a pair of input nodes for receiving a differential signal and a pair of output nodes, a switch connected across the pair of output nodes, and a non-linear load connected across the pair of output nodes.

- 5 The second amplifier stage is coupled to the pair of output nodes of the first amplifier stage. In one embodiment the second amplifier stage is a non-linear amplifier. In an alternative embodiment, the differential amplifier is a differential pair. In another alternative embodiment, the differential amplifier is a pair of differential pairs.

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL709306755US

Date of Deposit: June 27, 2001

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